REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated October 27, 2004, the Examiner rejects

claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent

No. 6,032,124 (Saito et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,073,109 (Flores et al.).

Claims 6 and 7 remain pending in the present application.

35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Saito et al. in view of Flores et al. Applicants respectfully traverse

these rejections.

Saito et al. discloses a workflow system that includes a plurality of workflow

subsystems connected to a LAN (local area network), these workflow systems being

composed of servers and clients, and provides a workflow system which permits an

integrated management of the definitions of the business processes placed under

decentralized management, through the server managing shipping documents, BPs

(business processes) describing shipping routes of shipping documents in the

subsystem, and business process connection data to connect the BPs.

Flores et al. discloses a system for analyzing and structuring business

processes implemented in software to provide businesses with tools to manage

business processes. The system i) notifies the user that he or she has a step to

begin or to complete; ii) provides the user with the proper tools to complete a task;

iii) provides the user with the proper information to complete a task; iv) allows the

user to see where a task fits in the overall process; v) manages proper reminders,

alerts, and follow-ups to keep the process moving; vi) automates certain standard

procedures; vii) integrates with the organization's existing business systems; and viii) provides application program interfaces that allow developers to develop applications that are workflow-enabled. The system utilizes a workflow server including a transactions manager and a database.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, a system for cooperating a general killer application executing a plan management process and having a predetermined specification with multiple business applications that includes a task template including a business process model and a data model, the business process model defining a task group and a task execution procedure necessary for the killer application, the data model defining input/output information of the killer application, or a task execution management unit which indicates a task to be executed according to the business process model and the task template, or a task start execution unit which sends an execution start signal to a business application or the killer application for executing the task in response to the indication from the task execution management unit, or a task completion detection unit which detects a signal indicating that the business applications or the killer application has completed the task, or a task result obtaining unit which obtains information indicative of an executed result of the task, converts the information according to an information conversion rule, and delivers the information to the killer application, or a plan information notification unit which informs the business applications of the

processed result from the killer application while converting the result according to the information conversion rule.

Applicants provide the following to help the Examiner further understand the present invention. The present invention reduces the steps at the time necessary for constructing an EAI system by preparing the following elements in advance: (a) cooperation scheme (adapter), (b) business process model and (c) data model. The element (a) corresponding to task execution management unit, task start instruction unit, task completion detection unit, task resulting obtaining unit, a plan information notification unit in the claims. The elements (b) and (c) correspond to task template in the claims. Assuming applications A and B read data and the result data of application A is the input data of application B, using these elements in the present invention the process completion of application A is detected and application B is started with the input data which is converted from the output data of application A.

In contrast, Saito et al. discloses in the workflow system, the electronic document being passed from a node to another node where each node receives the electronic document, processes the document, and passes the document to the next node. The process of each node is started when the node receives the document and the process is completed when the node delivers the document to the next node. Saito et al. discloses the connection of plural business processes definitions while the limitations in the claims of the present application relate to the cooperation of different application programs. As noted previously, to perform the cooperation according to the present invention, the invention provides the previously mentioned elements (a), (b) and (c).

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Saito et al. relates to a workflow system. In contrast, the limitations in the claims of the present application relate to constructing the EAI system. Saito et al. discloses a template that shows a coordination of connectable BP definitions which are registered in the workflow system. In contrast, the template of the present invention is a design template for defining the procedure for the operations between the businesses. Saito et al. does not disclose or suggest a task start instruction unit or task completion detection unit as recited in the claims of the present application, since in Saito et al. the document input triggers the process start and the document output indicates the process end. This is contrary to the EAI system as disclosed in applicants' invention.

The Examiner asserts that Saito et al. discloses a task template by the template of BP definitions. However, as noted previously, the template of Saito et al. shows a coordination of connectable BP definitions which are registered in the workflow system. This is not a task template including a business process model and a data model, as recited in the claims of the present application. The template according to the present invention is a design template for defining the procedure for the operations between the businesses. The BP definition in Saito et al. is not a business process model, as recited in the claims of the present application.

The Examiner further asserts that the document management unit in Saito et al. discloses the task execution management unit as recited in the claims of the present application. However, the document management unit in Saito et al. merely manages the shipping document and the next BP location described in the BP definition by associating them. The document management unit in Saito et al.

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does not indicate a task to be executed according to a business process model in a task template, as does the task execution management unit recited in the claims of the present application.

The Examiner further asserts that Saito et al. discloses a task start instruction unit and a task completion detection unit at col. 4, line 56 – col. 5, line 27. However, as noted previously, Saito et al. fails to disclose or suggest these structural limitations and functional limitations since in Saito et al., <u>the document input signals the process start and the document output indicates the process end</u>.

Moreover, the Examiner asserts that Saito et al. discloses a plan information notification unit which informs business applications of the processed result at col. 4, line 56 – col. 5, line 27. However, these portions of Saito et al. merely disclose that the BP connection data management unit and the BP definition management unit execute retrieval process at the retrieval request, thereby notifying other processing units of the retrieved results. This is not a planned information notification unit which <u>informs the business applications of the processed result</u> from the killer application <u>while converting the result according to the information conversion rule</u>, as recited in the claims of the present application. Saito et al. does not disclose or suggest converting a result according to an information conversion rule.

The Examiner admits that Saito et al. does not disclose or suggest the system notifying external nodes performing conversion of the workflow to the multiple business applications based on conversion rules, but asserts that Flores et al. discloses these limitations. However, Flores et al. relates to a method and infrastructure for developing the workflow system and does not disclose or suggest

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anything related to constructing the EAI systems, as in the present invention. In Flores et al., the workflow system is constructed by <u>an application</u> (workflow-enabled application) <u>dedicated to the interface of the workflow infrastructure</u>. In contrast, the present invention is related to an EAI system being constructed by <u>cooperating the different type applications having different interfaces</u>.

Specifically, the Examiner asserts that Flores et al. discloses converting information according to an information conversion rule at col. 10, lines 29-60 and col. 11, lines 31-67. However, these portions of Flores et al. merely disclose details regarding the standard transaction format (STF) and STF processors where semantics are defined for accessing the workflow services through different types of interfaces such as, messaging, databases and inter-process communication. This is not a planned information notification unit which <u>informs the business applications of the processed result</u> from the killer application <u>while converting the result according to an information conversion rule</u>, as recited in the claims of the present application. The STF processors in Flores et al. merely are applications that interface external systems to the workflow system.
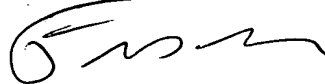
Accordingly, Applicants submit that none of the cited references, taken alone or in any proper combination, disclose, suggest or render obvious the limitations in the combination of each of claims 6 and 7 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 6 and 7 are now in condition for allowance. Early allowance of such claims is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger & Malur, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.39508X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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